

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
22710 E COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Jenkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Van Orman, City Council and Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Jenkins	Doug Smith, Director, Community Dev. (absent)
Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs (absent)	Cindy Smith, City Clerk
Council Member Owens	Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Council Member Crump	Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Council Member Schuler	
Council Member Olander	
Council Member Langford	

Council Member Crump moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs from the City Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Owens. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Owens asked to have inserted at Item 9, prior to the Empire Health Services presentation, a presentation by the Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake to the Municipal Library. Council Member Crump moved to accept the Agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Langford. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Crump moved to accept the City Council Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2008, seconded by Council Member Langford. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Accepted. In Favor: None; Opposed: None; Abstained: Council Member Owens

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Judy McGrady, 1809 N. Aladdin Road, Liberty Lake, addressed Council Member Olanders' comment regarding funding to improve the community. She asked if the priorities in the LIFT and TIF discussions related to the Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Ms. McGrady stated the area north of the freeway feels the citizens in the River District have not been given sufficient notification about certain communication meetings such as the items that were discussed in the previous meeting. She said they have been somewhat disenfranchised by not receiving specific notification about things that will be happening to improve the area and where they will end up paying the money for those improvements. Ms. McGrady asked if the Planning Commission actually made a resolution to change anything on the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Van Orman explained the process of the meetings. Mayor Van Orman said a meeting has been scheduled for June 25th that invites all residents to the meeting and advised Ms. McGrady that what is being addressed is a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. She stated the subcommittee will send it to the Planning Commission, and after public hearings, the Amendments will go back to City Council for verification. After that there will be a series of workshops for public input.

Ms. McGrady asked, "How will word of the meeting get out?" Mayor Van Orman advised by the Valley Voice and the website. Ms. McGrady said it all comes down to the lack of communication. She said one simple solution would be to print out postcards that go to every house. She also asked when residents could get copies of the proposed changes that were discussed at the recent meeting. Mayor Van Orman said they would be going to the Planning Commission the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and then once they have received them, they will again have an opportunity for the community to participate in public hearings.

Council Member Owens advised Ms. McGrady that she needed to understand that it would be against the law for any more than three City Council Members to attend the Homeowners Association meetings.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Crump stated the Finance Committee had met to discuss the vouchers, review the Annual Report, lodging tax fund guidelines, credit card services, and agenda items that will be seen today. He also reported that he had attended the State Board of Health Meeting in Puyallup. Council Member Crump said the City Council wants community input but he doesn't perceive the River District as a stepchild, but as a new child. "We are a growing community and have the opportunity to reach out better."

Mayor Van Orman reported that this Saturday, June 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a Smart Watering Workshop and barbeque open to the entire community at Pavillion Park, an Ice Cream Social from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. with live music, and then there will be a Ice Cream Social again in July on the north side of the freeway. Right after the Ice Cream Social, this Saturday, there will be a gathering of citizens to "Capture the Flag" from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Other items discussed were activities of the Park and Recreation Department.

Council Member Olander apologized to Judy McGrady for feeling alienated or left out and stated that the Subcommittee will make every effort to include the area in future

meetings. Council Member Olander briefly discussed why the meetings were held. He talked about the history of the parks and the Greenstone Parks Plan.

Council Member Langford reported he had attended the City of Spokane Valley's Panhandling Committee on June 12th. He informed the City Council that panhandlers have protected rights, but the discussions leaned more towards aggressive panhandling. Council Member Langford said, "Don't believe the signs you see because nothing could be further from the truth. Professional panhandlers make \$120 – \$200 and they have an understanding of who is going to where and how long. I think what you are about to see is a movement toward citizen education in this field. I think our position would be well taken if we joined with the City of Spokane Valley to educate the public and dry up the panhandlers sources. If we succeed in drying up their sources, they will have no other opportunity other than to go someplace else." He informed everyone that if you need to write a check to specific agency and if there is truly someone who is hungry or homeless, those agencies can do something about those people – they have the social network to take care of them.

PRESENTATIONS

Kiwanis, Pat Dockery

Pat Dockery presented the Liberty Lake Municipal Library with a check for \$2,000 to be spent on Youth Services.

Pamela Mogen thanked the Kiwanis for the contribution and acknowledged how much it was appreciated. She said the Kiwanis has been such a big supporter of the library and, "We couldn't do what we are able to do without them." She said the check will be directly toward paying for part of the cost of having the service of tutor.com.

Empire Health Services, Ron McKay

Ron McKay, Chairman of the Board from Empire Health Services, spoke about the pending transaction on the sale between Empire Health Systems and Community Health Systems. He said the organization is made up of Deaconess Medical Center, the Valley Hospital & Medical Center, First Care/Urgent Care, and specialty clinics. He gave a brief presentation on the need to raise additional capital to provide quality health care in the next 100 years. Topics included recent Organizational History and the Criteria for Partnership. Mr. McKay informed the City Council that the criteria have been met. Community Health Systems has made a commitment to invest at least \$100 million over 5 years in facilities, and technology improvements across the entire system. As a result of the sale, if approved the net proceeds will fund an independent community-run foundation – estimating \$84 million. Mr. McKay said public meetings will be held on June 25th at the Spokane Convention Center, and June 26th at the Mirabeau Park Hotel. He indicated that the City of Liberty can help support Empire Health Services and the healthcare community by writing a Letter of Support or doing a Resolution that can be introduced into the record.

Discussions pursued regarding concerns of nurse and staffing levels, ratios of nurses to patients being the same as Providence Health Services (Sacred Heart, Holy Family, Saint Joseph's and Saint Catherine), a press conference to address union questions regarding patient safety and quality, and there being no mandatory overtime. Mr. McKay replied they have lost 30+ nurses over the past 6 months.

Mike Taylor, Vice Chair, and a Board Member since 2001, intervened and said, "One of the things important to know is that those people all had exit briefings and not one of them protested over nursing levels. Either a dominate spouse received a better job in Portland, or typical turnover type of issues, like a larger salary offer locally or that type of thing. The physicians will tell you that it is teamwork. It is the team that is working on the individual procedures or applications that are the ones that have a specific relationship. It is the teamwork that is set up to accomplish a certain task."

After discussions on the hospitals losing between eleven (11) and fourteen (14) nurses a month, it being important to support and recognize what losing the facilities would cost the community; providing healthcare and striving to make sure hospitals meet the ratios, and being proactive on recruiting nurses, Mr. McKay informed the City Council that the priority at Empire Health is patient safety and quality care.

Council Member Crump felt that quality care in patient care is critical. He asked what would happen if the sale did not go through. Ron McKay replied Empire Health would have to back to the business plan and find ways to define what services would need to be continued to support, how we can go forward, and to produce a positive margin by improving the entire operating system. Mr. McKay said, "For us to continue on, we are going to have to drastically change our business model." After further discussions, Council Member Owens thanked Mr. McKay for his due diligence. She said, "However, my position remains that I am concerned for patient care and I believe that staffing issues are a huge part of it. I am very concerned with the number of nurses. When you are on the line, you need a nurse, and a healthcare provider. You don't need the provider 24 hours later - you need them at the moment the critical care is needed."

Mayor Van Orman called a 5 minute break at 8:30 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Spokane Valley Fire Department, Ambulance Transport Services

Chief Mike Thompson talked about Ambulance Transport Services for the Spokane Valley Fire Department. He gave a brief background on how the Spokane Valley Fire Department Board reached the point to which they are now. He said the new contract would be an all inclusive price for ambulance services. Chief Thompson discussed the timelines involved in order to have an Ambulance Transport Services contract in place by January 2009. He said the Fire Department was trying to do what was good for the City of Liberty Lake and the entire area that it responds to.

ACTION ITEMS

Council Member Crump moved to accept the vouchers totaling \$191,535.46, seconded by Council Member Owens. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

Check sequences were: 9718 through 9796

Acceptance of Letter of Understanding, Rocky Hill Park Land

City Attorney Sean Boutz gave the background of the Acceptance of Letter of Understanding for the Rocky Hill Park Land Acquisition. He said it was his understanding that the Deed for the 7 acres has already been executed. Discussions continued on the total acres, the platting process, improvements made to the park, the need for a fence,

and the uncertainty to go forward because the City won't know what will happen in five (5) years.

After further discussions, Council Member Crump moved to accept the Letter of Understanding for the Rocky Hill Park Land, seconded by Council Member Jenkins. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Council Member Schuler, Council Member Jenkins, Council Member Owens, Council Member Crump, and Council Member Langford. (Council Member Olander abstained from vote by not raising his hand.)

Acceptance of Bid – Rocky Hill Improvements

Andrew Staples, City Engineer, gave a brief overview of the bids and stated staff recommends the responsible bid for Rocky Hill Improvements, submitted by Wesslen Construction, for \$380,955.37.

Council Member Crump moved to accept the bid by Wesslen Construction for the Rocky Hill Improvements, seconded by Council Member Owens.

Council Member Langford moved that the City Council table the bids until the City has a written agreement between the vendor and the City. Hearing no second, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote to award the bid to Wesslen Construction. Motion Accepted. In Favor: Council Member Olander, Council Member Schuler, Council Member Jenkins, Council Member Owens, and Council Member Crump; Opposed: Council Member Langford

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 08-117 - A Resolution Authorizing Application(s) for Funding Assistance for a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Project to The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) as Provided In Chapter 79A.15 RCW, Acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands for the Rocky Hill Project.

Council Member Crump moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-117, seconded by Council Member Jenkins.

Jessica Platt, Administrative Services Manager, asked for City Council if they had questions. She explained the 1st version had a cost estimate of \$1.5 million for land acquisition and that has been lowered to \$1.36 million. City Attorney Sean Boutz stated he had made the changes from "our organization" to "The City." He added "Liberty Lake" in the first Whereas, and in item 6 changed to "the RCO."

Council Member Jenkins made a friendly amendment to incorporate the attorney's language, accepted by Council Member Crump. After Jessica Platt gave an overview of her presentation in Moses Lake on Thursday, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Accepted. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 169 – An Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Modifying a Speed Limit of a City Street Including Authority to Alter Such Speed Limit and Providing for the Posting of Traffic Control Devices.

Council Member Crump moved to adopt Ordinance No. 169, seconded by Council Member Schuler.

Chief Asmus addressed Ordinance No. 169 and the area west of Whitman Lane. Chief Asmus stated it was a safety issue and recommended reducing the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph. After discussions regarding the speed limit along the City of Spokane Valley, future development, and education, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Adopted. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Animal Control

Chief Asmus spoke about animal control. He gave an update on S.C.R.A.P.S. and discussions with Nancy Hill, Director of S.C.R.A.P.S., of what it might look like for the City of Liberty Lake to contract for services for animal control services starting in 2009. He said preliminary calls for service will be similar to the City of Cheney - \$13,000 year. Discussions continued on the difference between the City Ordinance and Spokane County Animal Control, charging more for animal licenses, adopting those fees, and expenditure and revenues for those services.

Chief Asmus said the second issue for discussion was looking at the issue of pets in the park for large community events. Discussions continued on pets in the park being a safety concern, overall responsibility of pet owners, pets playing in areas, leash laws, and allergies. Council Member Olander said there are three issues: banning pets during big events, banning pets from picnic area, and banning pets from parks altogether. He said we need to think about those things. Chief Asmus stated he would look at the Ordinances from other cities of similar size and present his findings to the City Council.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

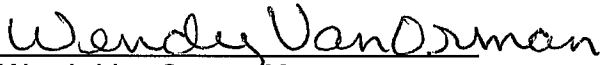
Cindy Esch, 1817 N. Aladdin Road, Liberty Lake, requested that the City Council take a look at opposing a regional outdoor complex. She stated, "however, as a homeowner our primary purpose is need to make sure that we are meeting the needs of community first and foremost." She strongly encouraged the Planning Commission, when looking at a outdoor sports complex, to strongly seek input from the Spokane Regional Sports Commission. "Are we looking for a regional complex or for one large complex for Liberty Lake?" Ms. Esch commended the City Council for voting in favor of moving ahead with the Rocky Hill Park. She said her grandfather and father farmed that land, lived in that house, and used that stone wall. She said "It is of primary importance to my personal family and to her father that be turned into a park." Ms. Esch also stated that she is a pet owner and that no matter how many obedience classes one takes their pets to, not all dogs in the park are well behaved.

Council Member Langford addressed the City Council stating "That because something is legal it does not make it right. The City is a business, and should be run like a business. He asked the Mayor to speak with the staff and at the least, he wants to see the best bidding practices put forth. He asked the City meet with the people who bid, and get in writing that they will extend it through the date.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion, the Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

These Minutes are approved this 1st day of July, 2008.


Wendy Van Orman, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake

*Notes and Transcription by Cindy Smith, City Clerk. This Council Meeting was audio taped.
Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk.*